

# **Teaching and Learning Policy**

**Reviewed on: December 2019**

**Next review: July 2021**

## **St George's CEP School Wrotham Kent**



Signed by:

Position held: Chair of Improvement, Inclusion & Curriculum Committee

Date:

Signed by:

Position held: Headteacher

Date:

**Ratified by the Full Governing Body on 28<sup>th</sup> December 2019**

**This policy is underpinned by our Christian Values:**

**Respect**

**Courage**

**Kindness**

**Forgiveness**

**Honesty**

**Hope**

### **Rationale**

At St. George's Primary School we ensure that all of our pupils in years 1 - 6 are taught the full National Curriculum and in doing so meet statutory requirements and Reception class work from the Early Years Foundation Stage Curriculum.

English and Mathematics teaching follow the basic structure of the National Curriculum while allowing flexibility for an individual teacher's professionalism to meet year group and individual needs. Pupils equipped with the key skills of literacy, numeracy and ICT are encouraged to develop an enquiring mind and to think rationally. A variety of teaching styles and learning opportunities develop our pupils' capacity to think and work both independently and collaboratively.

We provide a broad and balanced curriculum which is aimed at the pupils' individual needs to ensure that they are able to apply and develop a range of skills and understanding at their level. We do this through our Creative Curriculum which uses topic themes and ensures the National Curriculum end of year requirements are delivered in an engaging and relevant format to all of our pupils. Pupils should be able to think creatively and critically, solve problems and not be afraid to be innovative and enterprising.

We do, in addition to a thematic based approach, deliver some subjects discretely such as PE, Music and French. We also promote Outdoor Learning through Forest Schools as well as through our local community.

The school provides for the pupils' spiritual, moral, social and cultural education particularly through its RE and PSHE schemes of work. Citizenship is taught through a planned personal, social and health programme involving regular class Circle Times and outside speakers (e.g. police, drugs education, road safety officers). We seek to develop the well-being of the individual pupil through developing self-esteem and the value of good relationships at school, in the home and the wider community.

St. George's strives to ensure that our curriculum will result in happy pupils who are ready for the challenges of the 21st century culturally, socially and economically.

### **Aims**

The minimum expectation for the quality of provision in each class is good. Management action including coaching and individual support will be offered to staff working below this expectation.

At St. George's C of E Primary School we want to uphold the Christian values of Respect, Courage, Kindness, Forgiveness, Honesty and Hope.

We celebrate the success of all the children and will always endeavour to seek new ways to improve the quality of learning opportunities for our children. Learning should be a rewarding and enjoyable experience for everyone.

Through our teaching we equip learners with the skills, knowledge and understanding necessary to be able to make informed choices. We believe that appropriate experiences help learners to realise their worth and lead meaningful lives.

**To develop and support this we believe that effective learners**

- ✓ have appropriate self-confidence and a positive self-image;
- ✓ need to feel that their basic physical needs are being met;
- ✓ need to feel emotionally secure, safe, relaxed and mentally healthy;
- ✓ take responsibility for their own learning;
- ✓ are actively engaged, independent and reflective;
- ✓ are self-motivated and self-evaluating;
- ✓ are independent, show initiative and are willing to take risks;
- ✓ understand what they need to do to move forward in their learning;
- ✓ listen and communicate well;
- ✓ are able to access information, resources and the environment appropriately;
- ✓ are able to express their needs and feelings appropriately;
- ✓ interact with others positively;
- ✓ interpret and transfer skills in new contexts and remember and apply them to their learning;

We think that successful learners:

- ✓ Concentrate
- ✓ Don't give up
- ✓ Are cooperative
- ✓ Are curious
- ✓ Have a go/take a risk
- ✓ Use their imagination
- ✓ Keep improving
- ✓ Enjoy learning
- ✓ Ask questions
- ✓ Are proud of their work
- ✓ Learn from their mistakes
- ✓ Inspire others

**As the children progress through the learning process we want to**

- ensure that all children are competent in basic skills;
- ensure that children experience a rich and challenging curriculum that allows them to apply and further develop basic skills;
- enable children to become confident, resourceful, enquiring and independent learners;

- enable children to become better thinkers so that they can solve problems creatively;
- foster children's self-esteem and help them build positive relationships with other people;
- develop children's self-respect and encourage children to respect the ideas, attitudes, values and feelings of others;
- show respect for all cultures and, in so doing, to promote positive attitudes towards other people;
- enable children to understand their community and help them feel valued as part of this community;
- help children grow into reliable, independent citizens capable of making a positive contribution.

### **Effective Lessons**

At St. George's we believe that in an effective lesson:

- children are content and secure and are able to experience a sense of achievement
- children understand what they are learning and how to achieve their learning intentions - the objectives are shared with children
- everyone is included and all needs are met - provision is inclusive and lessons differentiated
- all children learn and make good or accelerated progress
- all children, including those with gifts and talents, face an appropriate degree of challenge
- children with AEN/SEN are supported well
- activities are pitched to match children's skills, knowledge and understanding - we start from where the children are
- the pace promotes high performance and allows thinking time
- activities are fit for purpose - activities are carefully chosen to optimise learning
- active learning is promoted through a variety of tasks
- children have opportunities to improve and move forward
- children have opportunities to be independent in their thinking and learning, make choices and take risks
- children are engaged and motivated
- behaviour is good and any inappropriate behaviour is dealt with effectively
- adults and children have high expectations of children's learning
- misconceptions are dealt with and are used as opportunities for learning
- resources are accessible, selected carefully, are appropriate and of a high quality
- teaching assistants and other adults are deployed well and impact positively on learning
- children receive effective feedback enabling them to improve their performance and have opportunities for self-evaluation and reflection

### **Effective Teaching**

To achieve this, our teaching will be characterised by:

- Good planning and preparation, which will be clearly linked to the New Primary National Curriculum (see **Curriculum Planning Folder** and **Subject Leaders Folders**)
- Clearly identified Learning Intentions and Success Criteria
- Clear continuity and progression from previous lessons
- Effective deployment of teaching assistants
- Effective use of manipulatives and resources, including learning/working walls
- Excellent subject knowledge
- An awareness of the learning needs of the pupils in the lesson
- An appropriate pace to facilitate excellent learning
- A range of activities to engage the children and cater for different learning styles
- Positive behaviour for learning
- High levels of engagement
- Redirecting low level disruption
- Giving children time to talk about their learning through paired or group work
- Contextualised learning to 'hook' the children into a topic or lesson and make them curious
- A range of high quality questions which can elicit responses and help to reshape learning for children, as well as making the children think
- enthusiasm which will translate to children visibly enjoying their learning.

## **The Classroom**

The classroom should promote effective learning. We expect that all children will experience consistently high quality learning environments. We expect that every aspect of the classroom should promote learning.

**Consequently we do not expect to see anything in classroom that is not related to the children's learning experience**

**Our school we expect that every classroom should have:**

A visual timetable in use

Reading/Book Area

English Resource Area

Maths Resource Area

RE Reflection Area

**Also there should be the following:**

- Quality displays celebrating the children's work and interactive displays that relate to current learning,
- Working walls,
- All classrooms will be clean, tidy and uncluttered. Everything in the room will promote learning, so we don't expect to see graffiti/stickers on trays or anywhere else in the classroom

- Everything should be stored in the correct storage units, no carrier bags of resources, e.g. under teachers' desks.

### **The Reading /Book corner should;**

- Promote calmness
- Be inviting
- Have somewhere to sit
- Have quality storage
- Have books in good repair
- Have an extensive range of books - fiction, non-fiction, picture books, encyclopaedias, comics, magazines, newspapers
- Have a variety of different books at different levels
- It should be clean and well kept
- Have a range of dictionaries and thesauruses
- Have a range of comics, newspapers and magazines
- Books written by the class and individual children

### **Displays**

In the classroom there will be working walls which demonstrate current learning and provide key vocabulary and learning support strategies

Celebration of children's best work will include

1. Captions identifying the learning process and where the work originated from
2. Work that is mounted to a high quality that shows the work to its highest level

### **Outside the classroom**

We expect...

#### **Corridors and outside classroom working areas**

- All surfaces are clean and uncluttered.
- Cloakrooms tidy
- There is no litter.
- Displays change every half term which reflect and celebrate learning that has taken place in the classroom.
- "One off" displays eg "Sports day" should only be up for *no more than a term or regularly reviewed*

### **Hall**

- Should always be left ready for the next teacher. We expect clear surfaces, no food left overs
- PE equipment stored correctly and generally no clutter so that all children can use the hall in a clean and safe environment.
- Displays in the hall should celebrate the work of the school and have class names

### **Playground**

- Should always be clean and tidy and safe for use.
- Equipment should be out ready for children to use and tidied away after each break.
- Children use supplied equipment respectfully

### **Outside Children's Books/Folders**

- All teachers will be expected to use the agreed books/folders as laid down by the Leadership Team annually
- Books and folders are labelled using subject labels with year group and child's first name
- English, Maths, RE and Science books will have clear front covers
- Children will not embellish their books at all.

### **Inside Children's Books**

Expectation is on quality presentation where children show pride in their learning.

Use of pencils/pens, layout and marking can be referred to specifically within the **Marking Policy** and **Presentation Policy**. Further advice on feedback marking can be found in the **Assessment Policy**.

### **Monitoring of Teaching and Learning Policy**

This is the main responsibility of the **Teaching and Learning Leader** and the **Curriculum and Planning Leader**, alongside the Headteacher, Governors and the Senior Leadership Team, as well as subject leaders. Regular work scrutiny by the Senior Leadership Team and Subject Leaders ensures that the policy is being adhered to and is implemented consistently across the school

This ensures that the policy leads to good practice in facilitating effective feedback, learning and teaching.

### **Equal Opportunities**

All children have the same access and entitlement to high quality teaching and learning in this school, and we ensure this by rigorous assessment to check they are reaching their potential and achieving their individual targets. Particular vulnerable groups are monitored within this process to ensure their progress and wellbeing.

Our members of staff are treated fairly and are given information and support. We ensure equal access to training and CPD (professional development) to ensure that teaching, learning and assessment are very effective, and that skills are updated regularly.

**Formulated by**  
Mrs E Rye  
Deputy Head Teacher